

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph [0006] with the following.

--[0006] In Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. ~~13-305818~~, 2001-305818 the frequency of mode switching between the color image forming mode and the monochromatic image forming mode is reduced and the productivity of image forming is improved by determining the number of monochromatic images for which continuous image forming is currently underway, and switching over the mode from the color image forming mode to the monochromatic image forming mode on the basis of the result of such a determination. However, while an increase in the number of formed images determined as described above improves productivity, this increase reduces the machine service life of the color image forming sections. On the other hand, a smaller number of formed images determined as above leads to a higher switching frequency between the color image forming mode and the monochromatic image forming mode, thus permitting achievement of a longer service life. This, however, leads to a lower productivity.--

Please replace paragraph [0076] with the following.

--[0076] Subsequently, the process goes to step S1018. In step S1018, it is determined whether or not the currently formed image is the final one. When it is determined to be the final image in step S1018, the process advances to step S1021 to conduct an end processing as described above with reference to the timing chart shown in Fig. 4, and the process moves to the exit of the flowchart. When the currently formed image is determined not to be the final one in step S1018, the process advances to step S1019 to determine whether or not the next image is a color image. When the next image is determined not to be a color image in step S1019, the process returns to step S1017. When the next image is determined to be a color one in step S1019, preparations for image forming (step S1020) of the image forming sections d, c and b are sequentially made as described above with reference to the timing charts shown in Figs. 5 and 6, and the process goes back to step S1003.--